Import from South Korea

1756. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently placed any orders for import of certain items from South Korea; and

(b) if so, the names of the companies the details of items to be imported and the foreign exchange involved on the import of each of these items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Suspension of Tobacco Auctions in Karnataka

1757. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tobacco auctions were suspended in Karnataka during November due to agitation of growers; and

(b) if so. what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken to ensure that such incidents may not recur?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 1st November, 1991, some growers in Periyapatna platform No. 5 in Karnataka had assaulted the buyers on account of the lower prices offered by them as compared to the price offered at other platforms. The tobacco offered for sale in this platform is generally of inferior variety. The traders then boycotted the auctions.

The Tobacco Board convened meetings with the growers and traders and finally it was agreed to resume auctions on 14th November and the traders were assured of their safety. They were also advised to maintain steady price levels so that such incidents do not recur. As on 3rd December, 1991, the average price of tobacco auctioned was Rs. 40.54 per kg. as against the average price of Rs. 26.44 per kg. realised during last year.

Rubber plantation in Orissa

1758. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope for increasing areas under rubber plantation in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in that direction so far; and

(c) the details of the target set or scheme drawn up for rubber plantation in Orissa during the Eighth plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is scope for increasing areas under rubber plantation in Orissa. 2 lakh hectares of land have been identified as suitable for planting rubber. Actual planting has already been done in over 250 hectares. The measures taken to promote further rubber cultivation in orissa include:—

(i) Establishment of a zonal office at Bhubaneshwar and regional offices at Baripada and Berhampur and an extension unit at Dhenkana.

(ii) Establishment of a Rubber Research Centre at Kamakhyanagar in Dhenkanal District and a Rubber Nursery at Ranibaro.

(iii) Promotion al campaigns by the Rubber Board in different rural parts of Orissa to create awareness about rubber among the farming community and motivate them to take up rubber cultivation.

(c) During the Eighth Five Year plan, it has been targetted to bring 5000 hectares under rubber plantation in Orissa.

1759.[**Transferred to the 16th December, 1991**]

Overhauling of Advance Licensing System

1760. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to overhaul the advance licensing system to give fillip to exports; and

(b) what are the details of the new policies which Government propose to adopt so as to further accelerate liberalisation for giving the country a permanent place in World's trade structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The review of the Import & Export Policy and Procedures is a continuous process. The amendments. as and when considered necessary in public interest, are notified from time to time.

Privatisetion of Commodity Boards

1761. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to privatise the commodity Boards like Tea Board, Coffee Board and Spices Board; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor and its likely effects on the working of the Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no proposal to privatise these Boards.

(b) Does not arise.

भारतीय व्यापार मेला प्राधिकरण द्वारा प्रतिवर्ष अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेले का आयोजन

1762. **सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :**
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है भारतीय व्यापार मेला प्राधिकरण प्रति वर्ष दिल्ली में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेलों का आयोजन करता है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्राधिकरण ने वर्ष 1990 और 1991 में मेलों के आयोजन पर कितना-कितना धन व्यय किया है ;

(ग) क्या प्राधिकरण ने मेलों के आयोजन से कोई लाभ कमाया है ; यदि हां, तो पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान, कितना-कितना लाभ कमाया है ; और

(घ) वर्ष-पर्यन्त प्राधिकरण द्वारा क्या-क्या कार्यक्रम आयोजित किये जाते है तथा इन कार्यक्रमों पर औसतन कितनी रशि व्यय की जाती है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शिद) : (क) जी हां। भारतीय अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला प्रगति मैदान, नई दिल्ली में प्रति वर्ष नवम्बर मास के दौरान आयोजित किया जाता है ।

(ख) इस पर वर्ष 1990 में 132.71 लाख रु० खर्च हुए । वर्ष 1990-91 में खर्च के लिए बजट राशि 155.10 लाख रु० थी ।

(ग) प्राधिकरण के पास 1990 में 226.01 लाख रु० का परिचालन सम्बन्धी अधिशेष था । वर्ष 1991 में बजट अधिशेष 272.54 लाख रु० है । तथापि, यह गणना पूंजी निवेश/अन्य आधारिक संरचना पर होने वाली लागत को हिसाब में लिये बिना की गयी है ।